



AGENDA ITEM: 6

NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY AUDIT COMMITTEE

12 September 2016

TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS

Report by Dawn Docx, Interim Treasurer to the Authority

Purpose of Report

- 1 A requirement of the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance is that Prudential Indicators are monitored on a regular basis and any significant changes approved. Similarly, under the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management any changes in long term borrowing and changes to the Authority's counterparties need to be reported to Members.

Introduction

- 2 The Prudential Indicators and the Treasury Management Strategy for 2016-2017 were approved by the Fire Authority on 21 March 2016. Since their approval the Prudential Indicators (PIs) estimated for 2016-2017 onwards have changed. Also, there have been new loans and changes to the list of counterparties.

Prudential Indicators 2016-2017

- 3 The PIs for 2016-2017 have changed due to the actual expenditure on the capital programme for 2015-2016 being less than the estimated outturn. An explanation of what each PI represents is detailed below:

- Capital Financing Requirement is a measure of the long term debt needed to support the Authority's capital programme;
- Operational Boundary is a measure of the possible maximum external debt allowing for peaks and troughs in cashflows;
- Authorised Limit is an estimate of the maximum amount the Authority could borrow based on an assessment of operational requirements and external risks.

4 These three key indicators have all changed for 2016-2017. Capital expenditure has increased over the original estimate due to schemes that were not fully completed in 2015-2016 rolling over to 2016-2017. Appendix A lists the indicators reported in March and the revised indicators.

New Loans

5 One new PWLB loan has been taken out so far this year to replace a loan that has matured and to support the capital programme. The Authority now has £13,000,000 in short term loans taken out with other Local Authorities due to the interest rates being lower than that offered by the PWLB. Following approval by the Audit committee £13,000,000 of these loans are currently renewed on maturity with other Local Authorities depending on the interest rates available at that time. The details of the new loans for 2016/17 are as follows:-

Principal £	Rate %	Date of Loan	Period	Lender
1,500,000	1.5	05/05/2016	6 ½ Years	PWLB
2,000,000	0.52	01/04/2016	6 Months	Kent Police and Crime Commissioner (CCBC)
3,000,000	0.55	31/05/2016	6 Months	Oldham Metropolitan Council
2,000,000	0.52	13/06/2016	6 Months	Middlesborough Council
1,000,000	0.47	01/07/2016	6 Months	Epping Forest District Council
2,000,000	0.56	02/06/16	9 Months	South Somerset District Council

Counterparties and Investments

6 The investment strategy for 2015/16 approved by Members in March included approval of the following criteria for counterparties

- (1) Debt Management Office of the Treasury – limit £5m
- (2) Local Authorities (except rate-capped) – limit £2m
- (3) All UK and Irish banks and their subsidiaries that have good ratings (Fitch or equivalent). This is currently defined as:

Short term	F1
Long term	A
Viability Rating	bbb

Limit - £5m

Banks whose ratings fall below those in the table above will be used if wholesale deposits are covered by a government guarantee, and the deposits fall within the terms of the guarantee.

- (4) Building Societies with a rating (as for the banking sector) all have a lending limit of £2m.
 - (5) Building societies without a rating but with assets of £1 billion or more have a limit of £2m with a maximum time limit of 9 months.
- 7 A list of the current counterparties is included at Appendix B and there have been some changes to the list since the last report to Members.
- 8 The primary principle governing the Authority's investment criteria is the security of its investments. The uncertainty over counterparty creditworthiness has lessened and our treasury advisors are now recommending that the time limit for investments should be a maximum of 6 months; this has increased from the previous advice that the maximum should only be for 3 months. The surplus cash for

investment is currently higher than that usually held by the Authority as the Annual Pensions Top up Grant from the Welsh Government has just been received. The surplus cash is invested in two call accounts, Barclays and the Bank of Scotland, which allow instant access to funds. As pension payments are made throughout the year the level of surplus cash will decrease. In the short term some of the surplus cash will be used to support the capital programme so when loans mature they will not be replaced immediately. The investments held as at 31 August are detailed below.

Principal £	Rate %	Date of Loan	Period	Lender
4,360,000	0.40	N/A	Call	Bank of Scotland
1,180,000	0.25	N/A	Call	Barclays

Treasury Management and Brexit

- 9 The market's reaction to counter possible risks to the economy as a result of the referendum was to lower the base rate from 0.5% to 0.25%. The reduction in rates has been reflected in new borrowing with 6 month loans being available for as low as 0.2%. However on the negative side the rate the Authority receives on one call account has reduced to 0.25%. Any reduction in interest rates is beneficial to the Authority as they are always in a net borrowing position.

Recommendations

- 10 That Members:
- (i) approve the amended Prudential Indicators set out in Appendix A;
 - (ii) note the counterparties listed in Appendix B;
 - (iii) note the new loans.

Appendix A

PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS

		2016/17 £	2017/18 £	2018/19 £
1	Capital Expenditure Original Indicator New Indicator	4,014,000 6,110,271	5,150,000 5,150,000	2,825,000 2,825,000
2	Capital Financing Requirement Original Indicator New indicator	35,577,000 36,815,818	37,901,000 39,024,075	37,751,000 38,758,480
3	Authorised Limit Original Indicator New indicator	37,577,000 38,815,818	39,900,000 41,024,075	39,751,000 40,758,480
4	Operational Boundary Original indicator New indicator	35,577,000 36,815,818	37,901,000 39,024,075	37,751,000 38,758,480
5	Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream Original Indicator New Indicator	10.63% 9.94%	11.52% 11.45%	11.99% 12.45%
6	Incremental Impact of Capital Investment Decisions on the Contributions from the Constituent Authorities Original Indicator New Indicator	50,000 77,000	564,000 617,000	1,260,000 1,312,000

Appendix B

INVESTMENT COUNTERPARTIES

Banks – £5m Limit

Barclays, HSBC, Lloyds, Santander UK and the Bank of Scotland.

Central Government – £5m Limit

Debt management Office

Local Authorities - £2m Limit

All except those subject to limitation of council tax and precepts under Part 1 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 i.e. 'Capped' in the current financial year.

Building Societies (rated) - £2m Limit

Nationwide

Building Societies (Assets £1bn) - £2m/9mths Limit

Cambridge, Coventry, Leeds, National Counties, Nottingham, Progressive, Saffron and Yorkshire.